

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Discussion Item:**

704 KAR 3:490, Teachers' Professional Growth Fund (Final)

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.553, 164.525; 704 KAR 3:490

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education give final approval to 704 KAR 3:490, Teacher's Professional Growth Fund?

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** Historically, the Teachers' Professional Growth Fund was established to support self-determined growth expansion for individual teachers in the form of training in specific content areas or pedagogy. While the fund did provide unique experiences for a few teachers, the impact on schools and students was limited and difficult to ascertain. Over time, it has become clear to state policymakers that the fund could be better used to address major learning problems (math and literacy) and be much more focused.

At the August 2005 Kentucky Board of Education meeting, the Board discussed an implementation plan and timeline on the comprehensive mathematics initiative created under House Bill 93 during the 2005 legislative session. Part of this initiative includes using funds from the Teachers' Professional Growth Fund to train and support teams of teachers as mathematics coaches and mentors in statewide institutes. The statute calls for similar training and support to teams of teachers as reading coaches and mentors. In order to implement this program, the Teachers' Professional Growth Fund regulation needs to be revised to meet the intent of the statute.

The Board reviewed a draft of the regulation at its February meeting, and provided advice to the Kentucky Department of Education to divide the funds equally between mathematics and reading. \$2.15 million will be available for mathematics institutes and \$2.15 will be available for reading institutes.

A Committee on Mathematics Achievement was created under KRS 158.842. Part of the Committee's responsibility is to design the statewide training for mathematics coaches and mentors. This regulation includes the Committee's recommendations, and calls upon the Kentucky Department of Education to select institute providers based on recommendations from them. The regulation also indicates that the statewide training for reading coaches and mentors

be similarly selected by the Kentucky Department of Education, but with recommendations from the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development.

### **Policy Issues and Options**

The regulation includes the following revision since previous Board review in February:

- In Section 4, subsection (2), (a) and (b), the KDE is to select statewide institute providers based on recommendations from the Committee for Mathematics Achievement and the Collaborative for Literacy Development, rather than approving professional development providers. This makes it clear that these funds are specifically for statewide institutes around mathematics and reading coaching and mentoring, rather than generalized professional development.

### **Staff Recommendation and Rationale:**

Staff worked closely with the Committee on Mathematics Achievement and the Collaborative for Literacy Development to develop the plan for implementation and recommends the Board give final approval to the regulation so that the program may begin this June, as required by statute.

### **Impact on Getting to Proficiency**

Establishing cadres of teachers trained as coaches and mentors in reading and mathematics will positively impact teaching and learning in these two key content areas.

### **Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses**

The Committee on Mathematics Achievement and the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development worked with the Kentucky Department of Education to develop an implementation process supporting this regulation and statute. Input from the Local Superintendents Advisory Council and the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council will be forwarded to the Board in writing prior to the April meeting.

### **Contact Person:**

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Commissioner of Education**

### **Date:**

April 2006